

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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OCT 23 1937

FEBRUARY, 1930

"When one stops to realize the degree of feeling and the depth of emotional value with which the little child may endow any new experience, it becomes clear how necessary it is for parents to gain some appreciation of the way in which life patterns repeat themselves, each day's experience being colored by the feeling-tones of the days and years which have preceded."

—From "Mental Hygiene and Social Work," by Lee and Kenworthy.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Birmingham, Alabama—February 28—March 1

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT HOTEL THOMAS JEFFERSON

FRIDAY—February 28—9:30 A. M.—Registration

10 A. M.—Mrs. W. L. Murdock, Birmingham, presiding
Pressing Problems in Child Welfare in 1930
—C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

11 A. M.—The Place of the State, County and Private Agency in the Care of Dependent Children
—Mrs. A. M. Tunstall, Director, State Child Welfare Department, Alabama
—Miss Gay B. Shepperson, Director, Division of Children and County Organization, State Dept. Public Welfare, Georgia
—Dr. Maud Loeber, Secretary, Louisiana State Board of Charities and Corrections

1 P. M.—Luncheon
Mrs. Jesse W. Jones, Executive Secretary, Birmingham Children's Aid Society, Alabama, presiding
Financing of Children's Work
—John L. Sutton, Superintendent, Mississippi Children's Home Society

2:30 P. M.—Rev. E. B. Robinson, Superintendent, Presbyterian Orphanage, Talladega, Alabama, presiding
Participation in Community Activities by Children's Institutions
—Joseph B. Johnston, Superintendent, Presbyterian Orphans' Home, Barium Springs, N. C.

The Changing Trend of Institution Service

—Rev. A. T. Jamison, Superintendent, Connie Maxwell Orphanage, Greenwood, S. C.

7 P. M.—Dinner

Mrs. W. L. Murdock, presiding
Alabama's Recognition of Her Duty to Her Children

—Hon. Bibb Graves, Governor of Alabama

The White House Conference on Child Health and Protection

—Dr. H. E. Barnard, Director, White House Conference on Child Health and Protection

SATURDAY—March 1

10 A. M.—Miss Loula Dunn, Supervisor, Children's Aid Division, State Child Welfare Department, Alabama, presiding
A Case Conference
—C. C. Carstens

1 P. M.—Luncheon

Rev. C. C. Clingman, President, State Conference Social Work, Alabama, presiding
A Generation of Service to Children

—Marcus Fagg, State Superintendent, The Children's Home Society of Florida

INSTITUTION NEWS

At the annual meeting of the DePelchin Faith Home, of Houston, Texas, held January 21, 1930, the name was changed to the DePelchin Faith Home and Children's Bureau, to indicate the broader scope of the organization's program.

In 1926 the Child Welfare League of America made a study of child-caring facilities in Houston. The recommendations made at that time regarding the DePelchin Faith Home were as follows:

1. We believe that Houston's primary need is for a strong central children's agency, adequately staffed with experienced people, and that the main function of this agency will be the sifting, diagnosing and treating of the applicants for help that stream through its doors. If it does successful work, it will solve many problems without taking children into custody at all. In other

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

THE FIRST DAY NURSERY EXPERIMENT

BY HELEN LAGRANGE

(Continued from January issue)

To those children whose care we assumed, either in day foster homes, in boarding homes with their mothers, or in their own homes with their mothers, we have given much the same supervision which any child-placing agency would give. A preliminary general physical examination, not only of the child accepted but of other members of his family, is given by the Nursery physician. Smears are taken on all women and girls who are placed. After this, the mother is taken to the foster mother's home, introduced to her, and she with the visitor work out a daily plan for child and mother. During the call the foster mother is given insight into the child's personality as well as that of the working mother, with whom she must come into contact twice daily.

Of the 35 families whose 70 children we have placed, half of the number, or 18 families, we believe, should have been, or actually were, under the supervision of the Family Society; 2 were Mothers' Assistance Fund families; one was a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; and another a Red Cross family. Fourteen families out of the 35, we believe, were either actually harmed by the placement of the children, or the children were under care so short a time that the expense of placement clearly outweighed the advantage gained by a few days' care—children from 7 families remained in a foster home less than a month. Of the remaining, one mother with 5 children had a serious breakdown; one had a baby so young it became seriously ill and had to be placed for twenty-four-hour care; one mother placed in a foster home with her baby was found to have syphilis, though the agency referring her assured us this was not so before the placement; and two mothers who had separated from their husbands returned after their children had been placed in the foster home only two days—just what part the social worker played in inducing the parents to return to each other is hard to say. Five out of 6 families who had able-bodied husbands we believe were actually harmed by our agency assuming supervision—that is, the husband expressed himself at the end of the period as being satisfied at last that responsibility for support lay with him and that we had not helped when we made it possible for his wife to work. In most of these instances, however, when the placement was made, the husband and father was insistent that his wife give the family her economic help.

Twelve families out of the 35, we believe, have actually been helped, although three of them to whom we have been giving relief belong strictly to a family agency.

During our first year, though we were willing and eager to place children whenever possible, we found that we had placed but 30 families out of 200; during our second year we placed 5 more out of an additional hundred. For the remaining 88% of our applicants whose children were not placed we found that plans very diverse in nature were essential to build up family life. With this group, we learned that relatives could and would care for children of 28 out of 265 families. More than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the number needed the services of other agencies rather than nursery care by the day; and most of these families were referred to those agencies working primarily with family reconstruction, such as Family Society, Jewish Welfare Society, and Mothers' Assistance Fund. Of those mothers who had deserted their husbands or who had come to the Nursery asking help to do this, we found few who wished our care after a careful explanation to them that the Nursery could not decide for them whether or not they should leave their husbands, but that the community had a very definite right not to have their children dependent upon it for support. A good many parents came primarily for cheap care for their children. A careful explanation to this group that, by accepting nursery care for their children without paying for it, they were accepting relief as surely as did any family who received aid from the charities, made most of the parents decide they could and would live on the amount the husband and father earned.

According to an analysis of our applications, we find that 107 families out of 300, or 36%, have had able-bodied fathers and mothers who have decided they cannot support life together, even to care for their children. Seventy parents alone, or 24%, out of the total were disabled, widowed or were unmarried mothers. Would not these figures alone indicate that applications to day nurseries need very careful investigation before children are accepted for care?

It is true 300 applications are perhaps not a very large number from which to draw wholesale conclusions. We have, however, surveyed two other nurseries and found with one of them that of a total of 16 families with 30 children under care, there was one child who was probably justifiably a nursery charge. The daily per capita rate was high, and in one family alone which sent 6 children, an equivalent of \$51 a week was put into its care, and this amount did not include two children who were left at home with no supervision. A survey of another nursery showed that half of their children could be cared for at less expense by relief administered through a family agency, and in two of these families the mothers were breaking under the strain of working and trying to keep up a household. A child of an unmarried mother in the same nursery

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had been placed with a foster mother by her mother, who was paying the foster mother \$3 a week for the baby's care. The foster mother in turn was going out to work, and was paying the nursery 25 cents a day for the child's care. Was the foster mother a good financier, or was she merely taking advantage of a good thing in her immediate neighborhood?

In summing up our work for the last two years, we have been placing children for day care in supervised foster homes; we have been placing mothers and babies together in foster homes; and we have been boarding children with their own mothers. In addition to this we have been doing intensive family case work with the bulk of the applications which have come to us, wherever possible making social plans which would include all members of the family. Intensive family case work has been the keynote to the experiment.

Why, then, is the First Day Nursery doing what it is—that is, trying to build up family life instead of helping mothers go out to work? In his article on *The Family in Whither Mankind*, Havelock Ellis says:

"The family is not only a domestic question; not only a social question, as the almost tragic failure to recognize it in the great function of education brings home to us. It is finally a racial question. The well-being of the individual in the home, his due equipment in the community, and ultimately his fate in the species must rest on the sound organization of the family."

What training does normal family life give to children?

1. Training for adult life through contact in small doses with reality.
2. Gradually increasing social contacts.
3. Training in emotional adjustments through a—
feeling of belonging
feeling of backing
feeling of approbation
feeling of being very much like every one else.
4. Training in co-operative effort to meet a common need.
5. Picture of happy family life at a very early age.

What training may abnormal family life give to children?

1. No early training to face life.
2. No feeling of belonging or of family solidarity during dependent years.
3. No feeling of family responsibility.
4. Unstable emotional attitudes or abnormal attachments.
5. No early vision of family contentment.
6. No training in co-operative effort or of family responsibility.

Many and varied have been the questions raised in our minds during these past two years about the wisdom

of the day nursery as sound social planning. May I submit these questions for your consideration:

1. Can normal family life be made constructive by diverting the training of children to:
a. institutions?
b. foster parents?
c. nursery schools?
2. Is the community justified in expending a great amount of money for training children outside of their home which, according to the results shown by our experiment, in many instances is as costly as would be full time care either in the child's own home or in a full time foster home, and which in its effect on the child is apparently but temporary?
3. Would not a wiser and more constructive plan be to divert the effort of the day nursery group back into the family case-working field, facing squarely the fact that the great problem confronting the day nursery family is a need for relief?

We, of the First Day Nursery of Philadelphia, believe that the ever widening of the river of social service into the family case-working field is in the natural direction of its flow. Day nursery care, by damming the waters into an artificial flow, is a means of directing money and effort into a bayou which has become stagnant and which should be redirected into the main channel of Family Case Work.

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The usual large attendance is expected at the Midwestern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America, to be held March 7 and 8 in Chicago. All sessions of the Conference will be held at the Auditorium Hotel, 430 South Michigan Avenue. Although the program is not available for publication in this issue of the BULLETIN, printed programs may be obtained at the Conference, or requests for programs may be addressed to the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Harrison A. Dobbs, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

At Connie Maxwell Orphanage little Wallace spends a few hours daily at the office. He is very fond of carrying notes and of running on errands. One morning recently he stood in evident need of a handkerchief and Miss Murdoch asked him the question, "Where is your handkerchief?" His reply was, "Miss Josie said it was not cold today and I did not have to wear my coat." As this did not answer Miss Murdoch's question, she repeated it, "I asked you where is your handkerchief?" She received the laconic, but illuminating answer, "It's in my coat pocket."—(The Connie Maxwell.)

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

President—CHENEY C. JONES, Boston
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FOSTER HOME CARE FOR A "GOLD SPOON" CHILD

BY KATHARINE P. HEWINS

That child-placing agencies may help those above as well as below the poverty line was made plain a few months ago when the child of a well-known board member was cared for by The Church Home Society of Boston. The Social Service Exchange Index was consulted, the family history gone into, and a permanent record made, all with the knowledge and approval of the board member and her husband. More than this, the case was discussed at a case committee meeting, all identifying facts being carefully withheld, and the following vote passed: "Committee recommends placing Tom in a foster home for a month, thus allowing his own nurse a much needed vacation, and his mother, brother and sister a chance to accept an invitation to visit cousins in a distant State, thus fostering good family relationships. Incidentally, placement in association with children of his own age will be of advantage to Tom. Full reimbursement covering board, medical care and supervision, a total of \$9.43 per week, to be met by the family." The baby was placed in one of the Society's regular boarding foster homes, in which there was another foster child, and in every way given the same supervision by a nurse-social worker that he would have received had he been born with a tin rather than a gold spoon in his mouth. His father visited him in the foster home, just as other fathers less advantaged visit their children. The only person who seemed in any way disturbed over the affair was Annie, Tom's own nurse. She was distinctly relieved and, it would appear, a bit surprised when the reasons for his acceptance having been fulfilled, he was returned to her care none the worse for his adventure.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MENTAL HYGIENE

The committee on organization of the First International Congress on Mental Hygiene, to be held at the Hotel Willard in Washington, D. C., May 5 to 10, 1930, has issued a preliminary announcement, giving

information as to the plan and scope of the Congress, its officers and membership, and other information useful to delegates. Among the topics to be discussed are the following: Organization of community facilities for prevention, care, and treatment of mental health problems; mental hospitals and clinics; mental hygiene aspects of social maladjustment; mental hygiene in the schools; mental hygiene in industry, personnel work, and vocational guidance; the rôle of mental hygiene in the training of the preschool child and in the treatment of the child with superior intelligence, the neurotic child, and the child with sensory or motor defects.

One of the outstanding features of the Congress will be the effort to formulate a series of objectives which should constitute the most important goals in mental hygiene throughout the world. A survey of mental hygiene progress in the various countries is being made to serve as a basis for this program.

Correspondence relating to the Congress should be addressed to the administrative office, John R. Shillady, Administrative Secretary, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

FOSTER MOTHERS DESIRE MORE SKILL

[It is significant that contributions received by the editor within the month have included the following two reports of efforts being made to provide some training for foster mothers. The responses secured from the foster mothers are fairly typical of the interest we have observed wherever such projects have been undertaken.—THE EDITOR.]

A party for the foster mothers of the St. Louis Children's Aid Society was given at the home of a board member recently. Dr. Paul Kubitschek, of the Child Guidance Clinic, spoke on problems of behavior in children and so interested the foster mothers that it was decided to hold small monthly group meetings.

One of the board members offered her home for these meetings and the first one of the series was held December 10. This meeting was informal, and the foster mothers pooled their problems, asked questions and even answered some. Dr. Kubitschek was ready with suggestions and helpful information. Following this meeting refreshments were served. On February 12th the second meeting was held.

In addition to these meetings, groups of foster mothers caring for babies will meet at the home of another board member, where a series of talks on food and its preparation will be given by the pediatrician and trained nurse of the Children's Aid staff. The nurse will demonstrate at one meeting bathing and clothing of babies.

The Annual Report of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children of Seamen of New York gives an

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interesting bit of news about the organization's work with foster mothers.

"In order to help the foster mothers give the best possible care and training to the children under their care we organized a child study class under the leadership of a teacher from the Child Study Association. The expense was shared by the Society and the group of foster mothers. Here the foster mothers gladly came once a month, bringing their problems, little and big, for discussion and taking back with them suggestions gained from the experience of others. Here also was given opportunity for different board members to become acquainted with the foster mothers."

INSTITUTION NEWS

(Continued)

instances it will find that temporary care of children is necessary, but while this temporary care is being given, it will be working to equip parents or other relatives to take the children into their own family circle again.

2. That DePelchin Faith Home, after a thorough study of its present population, build a new plant on the cottage system to provide temporary care for a limited group of children. That the institution become the center of a general child-caring agency for the city of Houston.

3. That the form of temporary care may be of two kinds: (1) institutional care, (2) care in family homes where board will be paid to cover the cost of maintenance. The institutional care can be provided by Faith Home, and for this reason we recommend the incorporation of its work with this broad program.

The list of services rendered by the institution, which we quote from the "Annual Dinner Number" of the *Faith Home News*, indicates that the development of the program has gone forward in agreement with recommendations made four years ago:

What Faith Home does:

1. Investigates applications of all kinds for assistance to children of any age in Harris County.
2. After investigation, endeavors to mobilize family morale and resources to save children's own homes.
3. After investigation, if children must leave their own homes, receives them for care.
4. After investigation, if children need not leave their own homes, supervises them in their own or relatives' homes.
5. Gives care to children in the institution.
6. Gives care to children in foster homes, with or without payment of board, selecting these homes after careful investigation and supervising the children after they are placed in them.

7. Receives children for care in emergencies without investigation.

8. Repairs the health of all children accepted, correcting all physical defects and, by special health measures, bringing them up to normal health.

9. Secures mental examination of children whenever possible in order to plan intelligently for them.

10. Works with the families of the children to restore their family circles, and to encourage the family responsibility for supporting them.

11. Checks on all applications for assistance through the Confidential Exchange to avoid duplication, and co-operates closely with all other social agencies.

12. Keeps full personal records of all families and children dealt with for their future service and protection.

Thus, the DePelchin Faith Home is added to the list of institutions in the process of broadening their services so that they may better serve the needs of children and families.

Mr. C. W. Areson, formerly on the League staff, is the executive secretary of the DePelchin Faith Home and Children's Bureau. Miss Elise de la Fontaine, who has been director of case work, is leaving for further study at the New York School of Social Work. Miss Marjory Embry, of Louisville, and a graduate of the New York School of Social Work, succeeds Miss Fontaine.

At holiday time, the trustees of the Springfield Lake Sanatorium, Akron, Ohio, sent out a few statements of fact with an attractive Christmas felicitations card went to a wide mailing list of citizens.

The Springfield Lake Sanatorium was built and is operated by Summit County. Sunshine Cottage, which is the unit for children, is recognized throughout the country as a model for the treatment of tuberculosis in children, not only as to building plan and equipment but also as to medical and nursing service. Private philanthropy in co-operation with the county has made it possible to achieve these high standards.

The following quotation from the statement prepared by the trustees indicates the intention of continuing the plan of securing funds from private sources for the research and experimental phases of the sanatorium's program:

"It is hoped and expected that funds to meet at least the bare operating expenses of your institution will continue to be available from the county treasury, but if we are to realize on the broader vision, the fact nevertheless remains that only in such a degree as generous friends provide the unusual facilities to both physicians and patients will your institution's future success be assured."

BOOK REVIEW

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR DELINQUENT GIRLS. By Margaret Reeves. Published by Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1929, 455 pp. Price: \$3.00.

Do reformatories reform? In this comprehensive and sympathetic study of fifty-seven training schools for delinquent girls Miss Reeves has told how these schools can reform if properly equipped and managed.

The method used to obtain the information was not by a questionnaire sent to each superintendent and board member, but by a personal visit of from two to five days to each school, where opportunity was afforded Miss Reeves to talk freely with various members of the staff and the girls. While the study is of schools for delinquent girls, much of the information obtained and the recommendations made would apply to institutions caring for dependent children.

The unit of inquiry was the institution, not the individual child. The book will be valuable to members of boards of managers, to state and municipal officials and to superintendents of all children's institutions, maternity homes and detention homes.

How true is the statement that board members and state architects have planned buildings without regard to the experience and wishes of the people who must work in them. The chapters on Location of Plant and Buildings and Equipment are especially helpful.

We agree with the statement that good physical care for girls in a training school should include high standards of personal hygiene, the right kind of individualized equipment, suitable clothing and proper food. The results should be better health and increased happiness.

Superintendents and those responsible for the management of institutions will find the chapters on Psychological and Psychiatric Service, Social Case Work and Academic and Aesthetic Education helpful and stimulating. Those of us who tackled the job of caring for delinquent girls before the days of modern social case work, psychology and psychiatry, are able to appreciate, perhaps more keenly than the younger generation which has succeeded us, the invaluable assistance which these new techniques have brought to the prevention and treatment of delinquency.

Is education in children's institutions dynamic and objective, as Miss Reeves recommends? Is it planned to meet the needs of the individuals, both while in the institution and later when the child returns to the community? Is it urged that those in charge of the educational system in a girls' training school should keep abreast of the times and know what experiments are being carried on elsewhere?

Often in institutions for both delinquent and dependent children there is a tendency to keep the children too long because they have become useful to the

institution in helping with the work. Miss Reeves points out the dangers to be avoided here in her chapters on education and training.

If we accept Miss Reeves' statement that a major purpose of training schools for delinquent girls is to train them for community life, we must learn how this can be done. Whenever possible, the girls should experience and participate in community living while they are still residents of the school. If this is at all practicable for delinquent girls, how much easier it should be for dependent children. Miss Reeves recommends bringing the community into the institution by co-operating with outside agencies, by encouraging visitors to the institution, by obtaining outsiders to give entertainments and lectures, and by bringing in of young people to share amusements and recreational activities with the girls. Another important suggestion as to methods of establishing community contacts is that the girls be permitted to go out to attend church and entertainments, and, where possible, to attend school and vocational classes and on shopping expeditions.

In the chapter on parole, a clear definition of parole is given, the different systems in use and the importance of providing an adequate and well-planned parole system for the complete fulfilment of the true purpose of the training school, namely, to help the girls get adjusted to community life again.

Miss Reeves stresses the importance of adequate case records and her recommendations are practical and valuable.

There is good material in the book for staff conferences. It should be in the library of all institutions for children.—MARTHA P. FALCONER.

ANNUAL REPORTS

During the year 1929 a large number of annual reports from member agencies have been received by the League office. For obvious reasons it has not been possible to comment on each one as received. However, we believe the most interesting fact regarding these reports is the increase in the number of agencies which are trying to interpret to their supporters what a scientific approach in children's work actually means.

The stories of mothers dying on Christmas eve and the resultant non-appearance of Santa Claus are being supplanted by attempts to evaluate modern service to children and to portray skilful treatment in a way that will appeal to intelligent lay persons. A conspicuous example of the newer note in annual reports is that of the New England Home for Little Wanderers in which the various processes in the treatment of a particular child are summarized.

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ANNOUNCING A NATION-WIDE STUDY OF DETENTION HOMES

Announcement has been made by Charles L. Chute, General Secretary of the National Probation Association, of a grant to the Association of \$33,000 by the Bureau of Social Hygiene of the Rockefeller Foundation, for a two-year study of juvenile detention throughout the United States. The fund will be administered under the direction of the Executive Committee of the National Probation Association, which consists of the following members: Judge Franklin Chase Hoyt, of the Children's Court, Henry de Forest Baldwin, Judge W. Bruce Cobb, Judge Edwin L. Garvin, Professor Henry P. Fairchild, of New York University, Miss Emma O. Lundberg, of the Child Welfare League of America, and Joseph P. Murphy, Chief Probation Officer of Essex County. Harrison A. Dobbs, Associate Professor of Social Economy of the University of Chicago, has been appointed Director of the Study.

POETRY FOR CHILDREN

The following excerpt is quoted from a column on education by William Bolitho appearing in the *New York World* on January 14:

With some such warning that what I propose is only intended for a small class, I want to go a little further into the question of reading for the young, which I was encouraged and astonished to find interested a large number of people, after a column on the matter of fairy tales some weeks ago. To that overwhelming majority of parents who want to use their children to satisfy their inferiority complex, who have neither confidence in their children's destiny, nor desire to make them in the least degree abnormal, individual, but of the herd, I have nothing to propose. Nor to any teachers or any schools, for the reasons I have mentioned.

But here and there, up and down the social staircase, I ask families who dream for their children a happiness outside mere conformity, those with private tutors and those with only a private shelf of books, if they have realized the importance of poetry in the fitting of children for an individual destiny, or in the training of the imagination, which is the same thing? There is a lot of miscomprehension about the matter. To try to bring up a life without ethical imagination is like trying to rear a body without vitamins—either fairy tales or religion for the babies; either poetry or religion for the later age. Very likely you can do without one, but, I swear, not both—or they will pay your penalty by becoming "chauffeur men," as Keyserling calls them (admiringly), just amateur taxi-drivers on the earth or in the air.

HEALTH AND INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Methods of combating unemployment and ill health will occupy a prominent place on the program of the 57th annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work and its Associate Groups which occurs in Boston June 6 to 14. Dr. Miriam Van Waters, referee of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court, is president of the Conference, which is attended by people actively interested in such fields as: health, dependency, delinquency, family case work, neighborhood life, mental hygiene, and economic problems.

Social agencies all over the country have been faced with increasing demands for funds for relief, because of unemployment. Special attention will be given to recent studies of how to deal with unemployment, and to reports of the effects of unemployment on the community. The responsibility of Community Funds for relief giving, and such allied topics as economic old age and old age assistance, will be treated.

The care of chronic disease, and race improvement, are two of the subjects recently announced by Dr. Ira V. Hiscock, of the Yale University School of Medicine, who is chairman of the Conference Division on Health. Dr. Herbert Jennings, of Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. T. Wingate Todd, of Western Reserve University, will speak on "What is Practical in Race Improvement." Public responsibility for the provisions of the treatment of chronic disease, and economic problems resulting from such types of disease, will be discussed by officials from the Massachusetts State Department of Health.

Information on the Conference may be secured from the Conference office, at 277 East Long Street, Columbus, Ohio.

MAY DAY—CHILD HEALTH DAY

The American Child Health Association announces that the keynote for May Day—National Child Health Day, 1930, is "Parent cooperation in community child health and protection." The Association has prepared a list of suggestions for the use of May Day committees in the States and of the 82 national organizations that cooperate in the celebration. This may be obtained on request from the American Child Health Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

MASSACHUSETTS—Church Home Society, Boston. Miss Ruth Hazeltine is now acting Executive Director.

OHIO—The Cleveland Humane Society, Cleveland. New address—520 Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.

**INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON
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BULLETIN**

*President: MISS MATTY L. BEATTIE, Providence, R. I.
Vice-President: MISS MAUD MORLOCK, Cleveland, Ohio.
Secretary: MISS MARGUERITE BOYLAN, Hartford, Conn.
Treasurer: LEON W. FROST, Detroit, Mich.*

ON THE WAY

ALICE STRECKEWALD, Director of Case Work, Children's Protective Assn.
Los Angeles, California

Two years ago the Los Angeles Unmarried Mother Conference made a study of the facilities in Los Angeles available to the unmarried mother and her child. Each agency or clinic was asked to definitely define its field of service, with the expected result that all agreed to refer unmarried mothers and pregnant unmarried girls to one of the case-working agencies for long-time care. This was the first step towards a community program in a city whose resources are not co-ordinated and where the pregnant unmarried girl is not referred to a social agency often until after the birth of her baby or until the situation becomes acute. Furthermore, the agencies are working under the additional handicap of poor legal machinery for establishing paternity, and no backing and little co-operation and understanding (even within the social agencies) in securing a period of breast-feeding.

This year a study sponsored by the Unmarried Mother Conference was undertaken by the six case-working agencies handling the unmarried mother. The purpose of the study was an effort to determine by introspection:

1. The extent to which they are at the present time rendering complete case work service to the unmarried mother and her baby in accordance with the standards worked out and accepted by the agencies through the conference.

2. Whether the failure to render complete service is due to inadequate personnel for intensive case work within the agencies, incomplete use of the resources in the community or poor administration of present laws or need of more adequate legislation.

The study includes material gathered by the following agencies from 285 cases on which they had completed their service during 1928:

Catholic Welfare Bureau.....	42
Children's Home Society.....	73
Children's Protective Association.....	100
County Welfare Department.....	17
Jewish Children's Bureau.....	5
Juvenile Probation Department.....	48

The figures below do not give an accurate picture of the accomplishment of the individual agencies because the emphasis is placed on different phases of unmarried

mother work by the different agencies according to their philosophy and equipment. For instance, one agency has a full-time psychologist, another a receiving home, others relief funds; while some have only case-work service, etc., tending to make the work of each agency better in some respects than others.

70% of the girls were under 21 (29% school girls).

20% of the fathers were under 21.

71% of the girls came from unhappy or broken homes.

67% of the girls were poorly adjusted in their homes.

24% of the girls gave a history of previous sex irregularity.

68 or 14% were given individual psychological tests.

30 were found to be normal or superior.

38 were found to be mentally defective.

Although there were adequate facilities for free prenatal examinations and care, 16% of the mothers known to the agencies before confinement did not receive prenatal examinations; 24% did not have Wassermann tests; 37% were not given tests for gonorrhea.

Although 83% of the babies were born in hospitals and maternity homes and 76% of the mothers came to the attention of the agencies either before confinement or within the first two weeks of the child's life, only 31% were breast-fed for three months or more, in spite of the fact that 62 mothers who did not nurse their babies were physically able to do so. Five per cent of the babies died. Beginning contact with the pregnant unmarried girl early in her pregnancy helps to pave the way for the breast-feeding of the baby.

Sixty-six per cent of the mothers kept the custody of their babies. Since the agencies vary between 20% and 89% on the question of keeping mothers and babies together, it would seem that the general average might have been materially raised by more intensive case work. Thirty per cent of these girls were over 21 years of age, and there is no free facility for psychological examinations for adults.

There is no special legal machinery for establishing paternity and securing support for children born out of wedlock. Paternity was established for 37% of the babies studied and support secured for 60% of this number; 33% of the fathers who paid, paid regularly.

The immediate result of the study was the decision of the Conference to concentrate its efforts this year on the "early and complete reference of cases," that is, educational work with physicians, nurses, clinics and individuals. To increase the number of cases referred to case-working agencies early in pregnancy from 54% as it was in the study, to as near 100% as possible.

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